

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05
SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 STR-06
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /120 W
-----023207 161726Z /47

O 161639Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4281

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 00881

ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BE, CG, US

SUBJECT: MOBUTU PLAN: SIMONET LETTER TO SECRETARY
VANCE

SUMMARY: BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET SENDS
SECRETARY VANCE A LETTER JANUARY 13 SUMMARIZING
CURRENT STATUS OF MOBUTU PLAN FOR ZAIRE, INDICATING
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THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU WILL SOON BE CONTACTING DIRECTLY
VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
ABOUT THE PLAN, AND STATING THAT THE BELGIANS, IF ALL
AGREE, WILL THEN INVITE INTERESTED COUNTRIES AND
ORGANIZATIONS TO MEET IN BRUSSELS. END SUMMARY.

1. ANDRE ONKELINX, FOREIGN MINISTER'S DEPUTY CHEF

DE CABINET AND MEMBER OF THE MALDAGUE GROUP, SENT TO US THE EVENING OF JANUARY 13 A LETTER IN ENGLISH FROM FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET TO SECRETARY VANCE ON THE MOBUTU PLAN FOR THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL RECOVERY OF ZAIRE. THE LETTER CONTAINED A FOUR-PAGE ANNEX WHICH ONKELINX SAID SUMMARIZED DEVELOPMENTS TO DATE. HE SAID THAT AT MOBUTU'S REQUEST, SIMONET SENT SIMILAR LETTERS TO FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE UK, FRANCE,

FRG. ITALY, JAPAN, IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA-AS WELL AS TO THE REST OF BELGIUM'S EC PARTNERS ON AN INFORMATION BASIS-AND TO THE PRESIDENTS OF THE WORLD BANK, IMF, AND THE EC COMMISSION.

2. THE SIMONET LETTER SAID THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU SOON WOULD CONTACT GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ABOUT THE "TERMS AND CONDITIONS" OF THE PLAN AND FURTHER "INTERNATIONAL AID." ONKELINX TOLD US THAT HE EXPECTS MOBUTU WILL SHORTLY SEND A REPRESENTATIVE - PROBABLY FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA - TO VARIOUS CAPITALS TO MAKE THIS FORMAL CONTACT WITH SELECTED GOVERNMENTS AND THE IMF AND WORLD BANK. HE SAID SIMONET DID NOT EXPECT A RESPONSE TO THIS LETTER SINCE IT WAS INFORMATIVE IN NATURE. AFTER THE ZAIRIANS CONTACT GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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ORGANIZATIONS AND IF THEY GET A "POSITIVE RESPONSE," THEN, ONKELINX SAID, BELGIUM WOULD BE WILLING TO BE "HOST" IN BRUSSELS TO A MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO EXPLORE HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE PLAN. ONKELINX STRESSED THAT "HOST" WAS A BETTER WORD THAN "COORDINATOR" TO DESCRIBE THE BELGIAN ROLE IN LIGHT OF SENSITIVITIES OF FRANCE AND OTHER COUNTRIES, AND HE UNDERLINED THAT BELGIUM AGREED WITH THE U.S. AND THE FRG ABOUT THE "ESSENTIAL ROLE" THAT THE WORLD BANK AND THE IMF MUST PLAY IN ANY PLAN TO HELP ZAIRE. ONKELINX SAID THAT A PROPOSAL TO SEND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OUTERS AND MINISTER OF FINANCE GEENS TO WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH U.S., WORLD BANK AND IMF OFFICIALS WAS DISCUSSED AT A JANUARY 13 INTERMINISTERIAL MEETING BUT WAS NOT ACTED UPON.

3. ONKELINX POINTED OUT THAT THE ANNEX STRESSED "TWO CONDITIONS" REQUIRED OF ZAIRE FOR GOING FORWARD WITH THE PLAN:

- REFORM OF THE BANK OF ZAIRE.

- REESTABLISHMENT OF ORTHODOX BUDGETARY PROCEDURES.

WE POINTED OUT TO ONKELINX THAT THE LETTER AND ANNEX MADE NO MENTION OF ABOLISHING MOBUTU'S PRESIDENTIAL SLUSH FUND("DOTATION PRESIDENTIELLE"). HE ADMITTED THAT IT WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED BY NAME BUT IS INCLUDED IN THE DUAL CONCEPTS OF BANK REORGANIZATION AND BUDGETARY ORTHODOXY. HE SAID THE SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE "DOTATION PRESIDENTIELLE"

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05
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SP-02 SS-15 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 STR-06
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /120 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4282

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 00881

ALSO FOR USEEC

BY NAME IN AN ATTACHMENT OF A DECEMBER 23
LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER TIIDEMANS TO MOBUTU
HAD TRIGGERED SUCH A "HEATED NEGATIVE RESPONSE" FROM

MOBUTU THAT THE BELGIANS DROPPED "FOR THE TIME BEING"
THE SPECIFIC MENTION OF IT. HE REITERATED, HOWEVER,
THAT BELGIUM EXPECTS TO TAKE UP THIS ISSUE AGAIN
WITH MOBUTU.

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4. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SIMONET'S LETTER TO THE
SECRETARY. ORIGINAL, WITH ANNEX, POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT
(AF/C JUNIOR) WITH COPY TO KINSHASA. TRANSLATION
OF ANNEX TO FOLLOW BY SEPTEL.

QUOTE:

DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

I ALREADY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY TO YOU
MY VIEWS ABOUT THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL RECOVERY
PLAN FOR ZAIRE AS PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU.

I SEND YOU, HEREIN A NOTE RESUMING THE EVOLUTION
OF THIS SUBJECT, SINCE LAST JUNE PRESIDENT MOBUTU
DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM WITH DIFFERENT WESTERN GOVERN-
MENTS.

AS THE NOTE INDICATES THE PRESIDENT OF ZAIRE
WILL SOON GET IN TOUCH WITH A FEW GOVERNMENTS (INCLUDING
YOURS) AND SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN
ORDER TO FORMERLY INTRODUCE THE DISCUSSION
ON THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE RECOVERY PLAN FOR
ZAIRE AND THE INTERNATIONAL AID THIS COUNTRY COULD
DISPOSE OF.

IF ALL THE GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANI-
ZATIONS CONCERNED AGREE TO HAVE BELGIUM TAKE THE
INITIATIVE TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIONS,
I WOULD BE MOST WILLING TO WELCOME IN BRUSSELS THE
VARIOUS REPRESENTATIVES OF THESE GOVERNMENTS AND
ORGANIZATIONS WITH A VIEW TO FIND THE MOST APPROPRIATE
MEANS AND WAYS TO PROMOTE THESE CONSULTATIONS.
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MY STAFF AND MYSELF ARE AT YOUR DISPOSAL FOR ANY
FURTHER INFORMATION YOU MIGHT NEED REGARDING THE
PRESENT STATE OF THIS AFFAIR.

YOURS SINCERELY,
HENRI SIMONET. END QUOTE CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Executive Order: GS
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From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780161/aaaabzco.tel
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3771822
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOBUTU PLAN: SIMONET LETTER TO SECRETARY VANCE SUMMARY: BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET SENDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BE, CG, US, (MOBUTO SESE SEKO)
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
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